WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) receptor antagonist which specifically binds to a HGF receptor.

2. The antagonist of Claim 1 which is an antibody.

3. The antibody of Claim 2 which is a monoclonal antibody.

4. The antibody of Claim 2 wherein the antibody binds to the c-Met receptor.

5. The antibody of Claim 4 wherein the antibody inhibits binding of human HGF to the c-Met receptor.

6. The antibody of Claim 2 which comprises a Fab fragment.

7. The antibody of Claim 2 comprising a chimeric antibody.

8. The antibody of Claim 2 having the biological characteristics of the monoclonal antibody produced by the hybridoma cell line deposited under American Type Culture Collection Accession Number ATCC HB-11894.

9. The antibody of Claim 2 wherein the antibody binds to substantially the same epitope as the epitope to which the monoclonal antibody produced by the hybridoma cell line deposited under American Type Culture Collection Accession Number ATCC HB-11894 binds.

10. The antibody of Claim 2 having the biological characteristics of the monoclonal antibody produced by the hybridoma cell line deposited under American Type Culture Collection Accession Number ATCC HB-11895.

11. The antibody of Claim 2 wherein the antibody binds to substantially the same epitope as the epitope to which the monoclonal antibody produced by the hybridoma cell line deposited under American Type Culture Collection Accession Number ATCC HB-11895 binds.

12. An isolated HGF receptor antagonist which specifically binds to a HGF receptor and comprises amino acid residues 1-220 of Figure 1A and amino acid residues 1-230 of Figure 1B.

13. An isolated nucleic acid encoding the HGF receptor antagonist of Claim 12.

14. An isolated nucleic acid encoding the HGF receptor antagonist of Claim 1.

15. The nucleic acid of Claim 14 wherein said antagonist is an antibody.

16. A vector comprising the nucleic acid of Claim 12.

17. A host cell comprising the vector of Claim 16.

18. A method of producing HGF receptor antagonist comprising culturing the host cell of Claim 17 and recovering the HGF receptor antagonist from the host cell culture.

19. A hybridoma cell line which produces the antibody of Claim 3.

20. The hybridoma of Claim 19 comprising ATCC HB-11894.

21. The hybridoma of Claim 19 comprising ATCC HB-11895.

22. A chimeric molecule comprising the HGF receptor antagonist of Claim 1 or Claim 12 fused to a heterologous polypeptide sequence.

23. The chimeric molecule of Claim 22 wherein said heterologous polypeptide is a tag polypeptide sequence.

24. The chimeric molecule of Claim 22 wherein said heterologous polypeptide sequence is an immunoglobulin sequence.

25. The chimeric molecule of Claim 22 wherein said heterologous polypeptide sequence is an albumin sequence.

26. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the HGF receptor antagonist of Claim 1 of Claim 12 and a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier.

27. The pharmaceutical composition of Claim 26 wherein said antagonist is an antibody.

28. A method of treating cancer in a mammal, comprising administering an effective amount of HGF receptor antagonist to a mammal diagnosed as having cancer.

29. The method of Claim 28 wherein said antagonist is an antibody.

30. The method of Claim 28 wherein said cancer is breast cancer.

31. The method of Claim 28 wherein said cancer is pancreatic cancer.

32. The method of Claim 28 wherein said cancer is colon cancer.

33. The method of Claim 28 wherein said cancer is lung cancer.

34. An article of manufacture, comprising:

a container;

a label on said container; and

a composition contained within said container;

wherein the composition includes an active agent effective for treating cancer, the label on said container indicates that the composition can be used for treating cancer, and the active agent in said composition comprises HGF receptor antagonist.

35. The article of manufacture of Claim 34 wherein said antagonist is an antibody.

36. The article of manufacture of Claim 34 further comprisinginstructions for administering the HGF receptor antagonist to a mammal.

37. A kit, comprising:

a first container, a label on said container, and a composition contained within said container;

wherein the composition includes an active agent effective for treating cancer, the label on said container indicates that the composition can be used for treating cancer, and the active agent in said composition comprises HGF receptor antagonist;

a second container comprising a pharmaceutically-acceptable buffer; and

instructions for using theHGF receptor antagonist to treat cancer.

38. An article of manufacture, comprising:

a container;

a label on said container; and

a composition contained within said container;

wherein the composition includes an active agent effective for detecting or purifying HGF receptor, the label on said container indicates that the composition can be used for detecting or purifying HGF receptor, and the active agent in said composition comprises HGF receptor antagonist.

39. The article of manufacture of Claim 38 wherein said antagonist is an antibody.

40. A kit, comprising:

a first container, a label on said container, and a composition contained within said container;

wherein the composition includes an active agent effective for detecting or purifying HGF receptor, the label on said container indicates that the composition can be used for detecting or purifying HGF receptor, and the active agent in said composition comprises HGF receptor antagonist;

a second container comprising a pharmaceutically-acceptable buffer; and

instructions for using the HGF receptor antagonist to detect or purify HGF receptor.